

REMARKS


Claims 1-17, 19-29, and 58-61 stand rejected. Claims 8-10, 22, 27, and 58 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 28 have been amended. Finally, new claims 62-69 have been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In the Advisory Action dated December 11, 2003, the Examiner maintained the rejections based upon JP 64-45195 and JP 3-56541. Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims and newly submitted claims are patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

Specifically, with regard to claims 1 and 28, applicants submit that the prior art fails to disclose or suggest the claimed composite material (or garment formed of a composite material) which comprises, among other things, the specifically defined plurality of discrete abrasion-resisting polymeric dots which have an elastic modulus of greater than about 800 psi, wherein each dot has a height in the range of 10 to 20 microns, and further wherein the abrasion resistance of the composite material is at least four times the abrasion resistance of the flexible substrate alone. Moreover, with regard to new claim 62, applicants submit that the prior art fails to disclose or suggest the claimed composite material for a garment comprising, among other things, a porous, expanded polytetrafluoroethylene membrane substrate having a first side and a second side, and a plurality of discrete abrasion-resisting polymeric dots, wherein the dots resist abrasion of the substrate, and further, wherein the polymer has an elastic modulus of greater than about 800 psi.

In view of the above, applicants respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance directed toward claims 1-7, 11-17, 19-21, 23-26, 28, 29, and 59-69. Should the Office have any questions, the Office is invited to telephone applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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